

**Amendments to the Claims**

This listing of claims will replace all versions and listings of claims in this application.

**Listing of Claims**

1-3. (Canceled).

4. (Currently Amended) An isolated polypeptide or a derivative or homolog thereof which *in situ* forms part of the extracellular matrix (ECM) in an animal, wherein the polypeptide is a von Willebrand Factor A-Related Protein (WARP) encoded by the nucleotide sequence selected from the group consisting of:

- i. a nucleotide sequence as set forth in SEQ ID NO:5; and
- ii. a nucleotide sequence capable of hybridizing to full-length SEQ ID NO:5 or the complement of SEQ ID NO:5 under high stringency conditions of ~~at least about 31% v/v to at least about 50% v/v formamide and from at least about 0.01 M to at least about 0.15 M salt for hybridization, and at least about 0.01 M to about 0.15 M salt for washing conditions~~ 0.1 x SSC buffer, 0.1% w/v SDS at a temperature of at least 65°C.

5. (Original) The isolated polypeptide of Claim 4, wherein the polypeptide is encoded by SEQ ID NO:5.

6-11. (Canceled)

12. (Previously Presented) The isolated polypeptide of Claim 4, comprising an amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:6.

13-42. (Canceled)

43. (Previously Presented) An isolated polypeptide or a derivative or homolog thereof which *in situ* forms part of the extracellular matrix (ECM) in an animal, wherein said polypeptide comprises a von Willebrand Factor A-Related Protein (WARP) encoded by the nucleotide sequence selected from the group consisting of:

- i. a nucleotide sequence having at least about 95% similarity to SEQ ID NO:5; and
- ii. a nucleotide sequence having at least about 99% similarity to SEQ ID NO:5.

44. (Previously Presented) The isolated polypeptide of Claim 43, wherein the nucleotide sequence is at least 99% similar to SEQ ID NO:5.